

the Government of France, I urge my colleagues in this House to join me in extending our gratitude to Colonel Bill Gordon.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DERRICK BROOKS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the accomplishments of one of my constituents, Derrick Brooks of the National Football League's Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Derrick will be inducted to the City of Champions Wall of Fame exhibit at Pensacola Regional Airport. The Pensacola Sports Association will join Pensacola and Escambia County to honor the Pensacola native on Thursday evening at the Pensacola Civic Center.

At Booker T. Washington High School in Pensacola, Derrick excelled in both the classroom and on the field. By the end of his high school career he was named the USA Today High School Defensive Player of the Year, a Parade All-American, and was rated the best defensive player in the country by Super Prep magazine. Perhaps even more impressive for a football player of this stature, Derrick graduated with a 3.94 grade-point average.

Derrick was a 4-year letterman at Florida State University where he compiled 274 tackles, 5 interceptions, 8.5 sacks, 13 passes deflected, 4 forced fumbles, and 3 fumble recoveries. His senior honors included: First Team All-America by American Football Coaches, UPI and Walter Camp, GTE Academic All-America choice, First Team All-Atlantic Coast Conference, and Senior Bowl selection. Derrick was a finalist for the Vince Lombardi Award, symbolic of the Nation's top lineman/linebacker, for two straight years. As a junior, he was named First Team All-America by Football Writers' Association and Walter Camp, and he was a consensus First Team All-ACC choice and that conference's defensive player of the year. Derrick also earned Sophomore All-America honors from Football News and was a First Team All-ACC choice that year as well.

Derrick graduated from Florida State with a bachelor of arts degree in business communications and recently went back and earned his master's degree in the same subject.

Derrick is now the unquestioned leader of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and arguably the most respected player in the NFL. Long considered the NFL's best linebacker, he has been selected to a team-record nine total Pro Bowls. Derrick was honored as the NFL's Defensive Player of the Year in 2002 and the 2006 Pro Bowl's Most Valuable Player.

Following the 2002 season, Derrick was the instrumental team captain that led the Buccaneers to their first Super Bowl championship, and he is ranked as the franchise's most prolific tackler with 1,775 stops.

Derrick has always given back to his community and he is considered one of the most philanthropic players in the NFL. In 2000 he was the co-recipient of the Walter Payton/NFL Man of the Year Award, and in 2004, was the winner of the prestigious 38th annual Byron

"Whizzer" White Award for his dedication to serve his team, community, and country in the spirit of the late Supreme Court Justice. In March 2003 Derrick established his own foundation—Derrick Brooks Charities, Inc.—which focuses charitable endeavors on children and has done considerable work with March of Dimes, D.A.R.E., and the Belmont Heights, Ybor City, and Brandon Boys and Girls Clubs.

Derrick is constantly distinguishing himself with achievements that are unmatched by any other player in NFL history and the city of Pensacola is recognizing this great man by inducting him to the City of Champions Wall of Fame exhibit; an honor that is shared by only three other people: Don Sutton, Emmitt Smith, and Roy Jones Jr.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Derrick Brooks for his many outstanding accomplishments throughout his life, on and off the field, and wish him continued success throughout his career.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, on Friday, June 22, 2007, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation. Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows:

1. Rollcall No. 543: "yes" on ordering the previous question.
2. Rollcall No. 544: "yes" on agreeing to H. Res. 502.
3. Rollcall No. 545: "no" on agreeing to the Flake amendment to H.R. 2771.
4. Rollcall No. 546: "no" on agreeing to the Jordan amendment to H.R. 2771;
5. Rollcall No. 547: "no" on motion to recommit H.R. 2771 with instructions.
6. Rollcall No. 548: "yes" on passage of H.R. 2771.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

The House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2643) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. I rise today in strong support of the Conaway Amendment.

Supply and demand for energy is out of whack and our Nation needs more energy. Demand for natural gas is already building up across the economy, and proposals pushing cleaner energy will only accelerate this demand.

This amendment is a major opportunity for us to respond to today's energy crisis with a

national solution. I feel justified in supporting this amendment because I am from a coastal district. My constituents feel the same way as I do on this issue.

Chemical production and oil and gas exploration, processing, and refining are Texas's top coastal industries. My colleagues from Florida and California think only they have beaches, but coastal tourism is Texas's second largest coastal industry.

That fact alone shows the argument that oil and gas production and coastal tourism are mutually exclusive is just plain wrong. They are acting like Chicken Little, and cannot point to one beach in Texas that has been ruined by oil or natural gas production.

There will be less need for LNG facilities and LNG tankers when we tap our own offshore resources so we can use the safest mode of transportation in the world—pipelines.

My point is not that we can drill our way to cheap oil or drill our way to energy independence. If we allow domestic production to die out, conservation and research will not save us, and we will have to pay a terrible economic price.

I urge my colleagues to support oil and gas production and support the Conaway Amendment.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "ENHANCED FINANCIAL RECOVERY AND EQUITABLE RETIREMENT TREATMENT ACT OF 2007"

HON. ARTUR DAVIS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, as a former assistant United States attorney, I am pleased to introduce the "Enhanced Financial Recovery and Equitable Retirement Treatment Act of 2007." This bill will enhance the Federal Government's capacity to collect unpaid judgments and restitutionary obligations owed to the United States and victims of crime, as well as strengthen the retirement benefits of assistant United States attorneys.

Madam Speaker, as you are aware, United States Attorney Offices are responsible for criminal and civil debt collection efforts that result annually in billions of dollars that are turned over to Federal agencies and crime victims. Unfortunately, however, there remain billions of dollars that go uncollected due to the competing demands on our law enforcement officers. "The Enhanced Financial Recovery and Equitable Treatment Act of 2007" will address this problem by improving the process by which the Department of Justice collects criminal and civil debts owed to the United States and the victims of crime.

But Madam Speaker, that is not all. The "Enhanced Financial Recovery and Equitable Treatment Act of 2007," in addition to improving debt collection, will also significantly aid our law enforcement efforts in another important way: it will ensure that assistant United States attorneys receive the same retirement benefits as all other Federal law enforcement officials, thereby increasing the retention of our career Federal prosecutors. Indeed, despite their vital role in prosecuting criminals, despite their vital role in defending the United States in litigation, despite their vital role in